THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, July 25, 1803.

Tranſlation of an ingenious Foreigner's Obſervations on the Probability there is that the French can ſucceſsfully invade Great Britain or Ireland. With Notes by the Tranſlator.

(Concluded from Page 7.)

WHAT has been already ſaid on the ſubject of deſcents is only in part applicable to the French, in caſe they ſhould ſucceed in invading England. The diverſity of the object in view makes an eſſential difference between the French in England, and the Engliſh in France.

In their deſcents on the coaſts of France or Spain the Engliſh had no other aim, than to fulfil one particular object in view, as to deſtroy the dykes of Oſtend, the harbour at Ferrol, or to burn or ſink the ſhipping at Toulon and in Holland*. The French, on the contrary, would endeavour to conquer, or devaſtate England. Let us ſuppoſe, that with the help of favourable winds, or with the chapter of accidents on their ſide, the French ſhould ſucceed in diſembarking 12 or 15,000 men in England; the maritime ſuperiority of the Engliſh would cut off all retreat for

 theſe

* Would to God theſe had been our only objects! we ſhould not then have to lament the failure of Quiberon, and the unſucceſsful progreſs of our army from the Helder. Of all our expeditions, Egypt alone ſeems to have repaid us for a ſpirit of extreme enterprize and perſeverance. But when we reflect upon other ſchemes, we cannot help claſſing them with the *notorious* march to Paris; a march that has ended in a no leſs *notorious* entry into the capital of Great Britain, under the auſpices of peace and amity. For after all (eſpecially when we conſider the introduction of able engineers, in the capacities of commercial agents,) we may exclaim with the poet,—

"*Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes.*"

theſe troops. Succeſs, death, or captivity, would then be the only alternatives. The French government would naturally have choſen their beſt troops for this expedition. The poſition in which a body of French would find themſelves, without any hope of being able to re-embark, would deſtroy all their courage, if the invading army were compoſed of bad troops. But peril and neceſſity, on the other hand, excite and inflame the valour of ſoldiers, who are accuſtomed to war, who have an important object in view, and who know how to take proper meaſures for the attainment of it. Famiſhed wolves are more terrible than ſhepherds, who defend their flocks, Every Engliſhman would individually have as much courage, but the want of experience prevents the unity of exertions, and deſtroys the confidence, that is neceſſary in the co-operation of numbers; for in war the individual is nothing. The French have their partizans, who would diſgrace the Engliſh nation, were they not in ſmall numbers compared with the bulk of the nation. We ſhall not repeat what has been ſaid on the ſubject of miſtruſt in the article of the Pruſſian army: of Ireland we cannot ſpeak: the hope, which was held out to the catholics, is converted into rage and deſpair, ſince it has been diſappointed*. The wound, which might have been cloſed for ever, has been kept open by government. The catholics might, with good reaſon, hitherto, ſay that the French were the enemies of all religions; but, at preſent, Bonaparte flatters and careſſes the Pope. If God has not lately touched his heart, the biſhop of Autun, the author of the captivity of Pius the Sixth, and director of the barbarous treatment, and the iniquities exerciſed towards a ſovereign of more than eighty years of age, deſerves to have little faith placed in him when he pays court to Pius the Seventh; it is clear that it is done ſolely for the purpoſe of captivating the confidence of the Iriſh.

Danger is not the only thing to be conſidered: the adminiſtration of England is a maſter-piece of the human intellect, and when properly adminiſtered, is as aſtoniſhing from its extent, as from the connexion and fineneſs of all its parts. Public credit is its vital principle, and the efficient cauſe of that prodigious rapidity of its meaſures that aſtoniſhes all Europe; it is the produce of ſecurity and confidence. We have ſuppoſed 12 or 15,000 men to have diſembarked: report which exaggerates every thing, will double or triple this number. Freſh deſcents will be announced on every ſide; and theſe falſe reports may

* There never, perhaps, was a greater truiſm than that baffled hope is more inveterate in its reſentment than ſettled hate. Its animoſity to the object which deceived it, increaſes in proportion to the expectations that had been raiſed. God forbid that the diſappointment, which the Iriſh Roman catholics have experienced, ſhould prove a melancholy illuſtration of this remark. T.

may give a mortal wound to public credit, and paralyſe in one moment the diſturbed movements of adminiſtation.

Numbers only ſerve to augment the confuſion of unexperienced troops, who have to withſtand enemies, that are at once active and enterprizing, remarkable for their quickneſs of throwing their opponents into diſorder, and for the audacity of their movements. If the forces of the Engliſh conſiſted of 100,000 men, how could we expect they would either conceive or believe, that it would be a fatal ſtep, to engage with all that number? The Engliſh are far ſuperior to the Perſians, in the days of Miltiades, Xenophon, and Alexander, or to the Turks of the preſent day; yet hiſtory teaches us, that the defeats of theſe nations were not ſo much the effect of inferiority of courage, as of inferiority of diſcipline and ſcience; but, above all, they have been the reſult of that diſorder and confuſion, which are inevitable amongſt a very great number of men, engaged for the firſt time. The very heſitation of unexperienced ſoldiers is capable of producing the moſt fatal conſequences, when they have to oppoſe an enemy that is ready at diſcovering every favourable opening, and who never fails to take advantage of it.

The Turks have often contended with advantage againſt the Auſtrians; and, on ſome occaſions, have even equalled the valour of the Ruſſians. But if we reflect, how eaſily the French defeated them in Egypt, in ſpite of an exceſſive diſproportion of numbers, we ſhall readily bring to our perſuaſion, that courage and numbers are obſtacles inſtead of aids to each other, when they are not united and governed by experience. The French have beat the Turks with more readineſs than the Ruſſians have, becauſe they are more active, more intelligent, and more ſpeedy in their movements than the latter, who excel the French only in intrepidity. At the beginning of the war, the French were ſucceſsful from the multiplicity and frequency of their attacks alone;* whenever they gave battle they were defeated, from their want of that ſcience, which a nine years war has not yet taught them.† Thoſe, who are acquainted with their manner of fighting, know that they engage in columns. Experience, habit, the routine of ſervice, and intelligence en-

* Witneſs the battle of Jemmappes!

† Our author is certainly a little out of his reckoning on this head. The French have, during the progreſs of their revolution, found it neceſſary to conſult the genius of the men that compoſed their armies; and have conſequently adopted that mode of diſcipline or military movement, which ſeems beſt calculated to a people, naturally impetuous, and always prompt in ruſhing forward ſo long as their numbers keep up the principles of action and reaction. T.

able theſe columns to co-operate towards the attainment of the ſame object, though acting ſeparately; even at preſent, if the French were to give battle, in regular order, with 100,000 men, a leſs numerous army of Auſtrians would beat them, if they were commanded by a good general; the Archduke Charles for example.

The wiſeſt plan in the above ſtated caſe, would be to divide theſe 100,000 men into five or ſix bodies, according to the ſtrength of the enemy, and the nature of the ground; and, inſtead of moving on with an ungovernable maſs, (the greater part of which would have no ſhare in the combat except to augment the diſorder and confuſion,) they ought to attack the French without intermiſſion.

Every Engliſhman, who will reflect on the greatneſs of the political, civil, and domeſtic bleſſings which he enjoys, and who will ſuffer himſelf to be convinced, that he runs the riſk of being deprived of them for ever, if the French ſhould be long ſtationary in England, will not heſitate to expoſe his life for the preſervation of thoſe ineſtimable bleſſings, which are greater than any other nation ever enjoyed, or to periſh, rather than ſee the downfall and diſgrace of his country, and of himſelf. The Engliſh would have it in their power to deſtroy the French, by the means of at leaſt an equal degree of bravery, and great ſuperiority of numbers; but this can only be effected by acting in ſeparate bodies, and by meeting the enemy at all points, without giving him time to form any ſettled and combined plan of general action.

When the honourable exiſtence, and preſervation of the moſt perfect conſtitution, that perhaps ever was formed, be at ſtake, and an enemy, powerful, enterpriſing, and led on by the moſt violent paſſions, is to be reſiſted; too many precautions cannot be taken. Cloſe the wounds of the empire, and drive diſcord away, by uniting every heart and hand; let not the ignorant or fanatic Iriſhman have reaſon to think, that the French would afford his country religious liberty, and that the government, which accuſes others of ſtupidity and folly, gives, in its own adminiſtration, the beſt example of information and wiſdom. Wiſdom does not conſiſt ſo much in knowing and blaming the folly of others, as in diſcovering how to profit by it, and rendering it uſeful. The enemies, moſt to be dreaded, are internal enemies, and it depends ſolely on parliament to re-attach them to the empire. If of two evils one muſt be choſen, ſhould it not be the leaſt? Governments muſt have certain principles; but they ſhould not be made to bend and adapt themſelves to circumſtances; they ſhould not be like Achilles:

" Impiger, iracundus, inexorabilis, acer,
" Jura negat ſibi nata, nihil non arrogat armis."

To accommodate ourſelves to the alteration of times, is no proof of

of a loſs of dignity; any more than it is a proof of weakneſs to avoid dangerous embarraſſments, when it is poſſible to elude them. No ſyſtem of policy can be good in all times, and under all circumſtances. A government ſtands as much in need of prudence as it does of courage, and of flexibility as firmneſs. The French empiricks alone have been capable of thinking, that a great ſtate may be governed by the means of five or ſix abſtract principles. Let not Malta be the rock on which England may ſplit; this place ſerves only to weaken Ruſſia, while ſhe keeps her at a diſtance from Conſtantinople and the Archipelago; it adds nothing to her power, even if ſhe ſhould acquire it; and yet this paltry iſland may be the cauſe of overthrowing empires*. Europe is on the point of being able to judge, whether the Engliſh government be prudent, or only obſtinate; its power and courage, cannot be doubted; but, does it poſſeſs the knowledge of foreign politics, together with theſe qualities? Does it not confound obſtinacy with firmneſs? Is it in fact wiſer than thoſe, (whom it accuſes of not being ſo) in ſuppoſing, that an Engliſhman could heſitate between the ruin, the diſgrace, the miſery, and ſlavery of his country, or an honourable death, if the government does not, in the firſt inſtance, obtain the victory?

* The retention of Malta (which we can by no means call a paltry iſland, politically conſidered) is an evident proof that the preſent admin ſtration does not think with our author. T.

INTERESTING TRIALS.

COURT of KING's BENCH, July 11.

Sittings before LORD ELLENBOROUGH and a Special Jury.

THE KING *v.* HEPBURN AND ANOTHER.

THIS caſe laſted the greateſt part of the day, and is a cauſe of immenſe importance to the public at this moment.

It appeared from a ſtatement of the pleadings which were opened by Mr. Abbott, that this was an information filed by his majeſty's attorney general, charging William Hepburn, lieutenant-colonel of the 31ſt regiment of foot, and Captain M'Cumming, the paymaſter of that regiment, with a conſpiracy, to make up and to deliver in at the War-Office, fabricated accounts, for the purpoſe of defrauding government of conſiderable ſums of money. To this charge the defendants pleaded not guilty.

Mr. Attorney General, in his excellent opening, obſerved, that this was an information againſt a colonel of the army, and a captain

tain in his majeſty's ſervice, two officers in the 31ſt regiment of foot, which was commonly called the Huntingdon regiment. It was, he ſaid, with extreme regret, that he had brought under their conſideration the caſe of theſe two defendants for trial, of two perſons who held ſuch a diſtinguiſhed rank and ſtation in ſo honourable a profeſſion, charged with ſo baſe, ſo mean, and ſo diſgraceful a crime. At any time, and under any circumſtances, it would be painful to be engaged in ſuch an inveſtigation againſt perſons who had ſo many calls, from their public ſituation, for reſpect from the country; who, from their public ſituation, had ſo many incitements to honourable conduct on their part. But if that would be a painful duty at any time, it was infinitely more ſo at the preſent moment, when the whole country was looking with affection to the moſt important ſervices of that honourable profeſſion, when we were looking to every member and individual belonging to it, as perſons to whom this country might ſhortly owe its ſalvation and its exiſtence. Under theſe circumſtances, to be obliged to repreſent any one perſon connected with ſuch an honourable ſervice, as degrading himſelf by ſo many inſtances of peculation and fraud, as thoſe the information brought before the jury, was what muſt be moſt painful to every one. But if the fact be true, if the charge exiſted, and if it could be made out in evidence to their ſatisfaction, that perſons who had ſo many calls to honourable conduct, had diſgraced themſelves in this manner, he was perſuaded the jury would think they ought to be ſeparated from that body, of which they were ſuch unworthy members; that a proſecution ſhould be inſtituted againſt thoſe who had held ſuch conduct, and that they might be marked and ſeparated from the body which they had ſo diſgraced: and that they individually, and in their own perſons, ſhould be made reſponſible for this offence; and that every precaution, by means of ſuch ſeparation and mark, ſhould be taken, that that which was ſolely and individually their offence, ſhould not, by its ſucceſsful and unpuniſhed example, communicate any diſgrace to the whole corps to which they belonged. He truſted every one of the jury would ſhrink back with diſguſt from entertaining ſuſpicions againſt perſons of this deſcription, of having committed any ſuch offence, without the moſt ſatisfactory proof. The nature of the ſervice required, as it was eaſy to conceive it muſt, that returns ſhould be made of the number of perſons who had ſerved, and the rank of all theſe perſons, and the regiment in which they had ſerved. It was evident, that the ſum iſſued for the pay of each regiment, muſt depend upon their numbers and rank. Muſters were made every half year of every regiment; and this offence conſiſted in having made three ſeparate returns, the firſt beginning on the 25th of June, 1796, and the laſt ending the 25th of December, 1797. In theſe three half yearly returns,

there were groſs and falſe ſtatements, to which theſe two gentlemen had ſigned their names.

The Attorney General ſtated with great perſpicuity the nature of the falſe charge in one of theſe returns, which was ſimilar in all the three. The ſame ſort of error and fraud were practiſed in the other two. The nature of the offence conſiſted in making theſe falſe returns, and repreſenting the ſtrength of the regiment to be greater than what it was at the reſpective periods to which theſe returns applied; and conſequently, as affording a greater charge of pay due to the regiment than what was due to any individual, and by that means realizing a fund which could never be called out of their hands. This had been done in ſome inſtances, by repreſenting that a number of privates had lived for a longer time than they did. The firſt liſt applied to a period during which this regiment were very diſaſtrouſly engaged, rather with the elements than with the enemy, in the Weſt Indies. When this regiment went out, they were near one thouſand ſtrong, but in conſequence of the ravages of the yellow fever, only about one hundred and ten returned to this country! Twelve and fifteen died in a day. In theſe fabricated vouchers, ſome hundreds of theſe privates were charged for ſubſiſtence money two days after their death. But with reſpect to theſe privates, who died in the public hoſpitals, a correct return was made of them, becauſe an account was taken of them by thoſe under whoſe care they were, and therefore there was a greater riſk of detection, if any fraud with reſpect to them had been committed. There was alſo a conſiderably greater charge made for the regiment than ought to have been made, by charging the pay of ſerjeants for thoſe who never were ſerjeants, and alſo by charging the pay of corporals, for a number of perſons in the regiment, who were only privates. The pay of a ſerjeant, before it was raiſed in 1797, was 1s. a day, and that of a corporal 8d. Since that period, the pay of a ſerjeant per day is 1s. 6½d. and that of a corporal 1s. 2½d. There was alſo a charge for a ſerjeant-major and quarter-maſter, though there were no ſuch officers in the regiment. Having ſtated the nature of the offence, Mr. Attorney General next ſtated the manner in which he propoſed to ſatisfy the jury of the fact of the fabrication of theſe returns. There was what is called the caſual book of the regiment, which contained an account of events as they happened, and from which the returns were made. But in this caſe he ſhould prove to their ſatisfaction, that when the falſe returns were made, a caſual book of the regiment was fabricated, to correſpond with them. All this was done under the direction of Captain M'Cumming, the paymaſter, and with the privity and knowledge of Lieutenant-Colonel Hepburn. If the jury could be brought to entertain the leaſt doubt of the guilt of either of the defendants, he ſaid it would afford him great ſatisfaction; but he thought it

was

was impoſſible that any doubt could exiſt in the mind of any man living, after hearing the evidence he had to lay before them. The very firſt article in the returns was forty-two ſerjeans, when, in fact, there were only twenty-one. It was impoſſible for any perſon who was in the ſmalleſt degree acquainted with the ſtate of the regiment, and the vaſt mortality with which it had been viſited, not to know that was a fabricated account. A number of witneſſes were examined by Mr. Garrow and Mr. Abbott, ſome of whom ſpoke very pointedly to the facts above ſtated. The two defendants had the benefit of the eloquence and abilities of Mr. Erſkine and Mr. Gibbs. They called two witneſſes. Captain Sullivan, who contradicted the evidence of a ſerjeant of the name of Morton, who ſwore, that the manner in which theſe fabricated accounts had been made up were mentioned in the preſence of Colonel Hepburn and Captain Sullivan; and that the colonel did not deſire them not to be made up in that manner. Captain Sullivan contradicted that evidence, and depoſed, no ſuch thing paſſed.

After a very eloquent reply from the Attorney General,

Lord Ellenborough ſummed up the whole caſe to the jury, and told them this caſe, in all its circumſtances, muſt give pain in the contemplation of it to every honeſt man, and every friend to his country. It was admitted on all ſides that theſe frauds had been practiſed on government; and the only queſtion remaining was, whether the colonel (for as to the paymaſter, there was no queſtion as to him) had ſigned theſe vouchers, knowing at the time he ſigned them they were falſe and fabricated.

His lordſhip ſummed up all the evidence: after which the gentlemen of the jury found both the defendants Guilty.

COURT of KING's BENCH, July 9.

Sittings before LORD ELLENBOROUGH and a Special Jury.

JOHNSON *v.* OTTADFIELD.

COMMON CARRIERS.

THIS was a caſe which, though the demand is but very trifling, is of conſiderable importance to the public, in conſequence of what fell from the court. According to Mr. Erſkine's ſtatement, this action was brought by the plaintiff, who is by profeſſion an attorney, to recover the value of 36 gallons of porter, which were delivered to the defendant, who is a carrier, and who undertook to carry it to Barnſley, in Yorkſhire. It was put into the waggon for carriage, and the caſk arrived ſafe, but an accident happened to it, which now and then took place, namely, *the ſucking the monkey*. This was extremely well underſtood

derſtood on board ſhips. All the liquor was taken out, and the empty caſk, the *caput mortuum*, only remained. It was provided by carriers, in conſequence of notices which they gave to the public, that they would not carry any valuable things, unleſs they were booked and paid for accordingly. For inſtance, a man was not to carry a box of jewels for the ſame ſum that he would carry the ſame weight of lead or tin. It was reaſonable, that when he was truſted with the carriage of things extremely valuable, that he ſhould be paid accordingly, as the riſk was greater, and therefore they would require a much greater degree of attention. This caſk of porter, of ſuperior quality, called brown ſtout, which was intended by this gentleman as a preſent to his mother, was delivered to the care of the defendant's ſervant. They charged the perſon who brought it there, 1l. 15s. for the carriage. Theſe facts were verified by ſeveral witneſſes. The cooper ſaid, the caſk was an excellent one. The publican who furniſhed the liquor ſaid, it was remarkably fine old porter, and very ſtrong. It was put into the caſk only two days before it was carried to the defendant's office. The publican's wife, who delivered this caſk into the care of two young men, (the defendant's ſervants) ſaid, they laughed at her, and expreſſed their aſtoniſhment ſhe ſhould pay ſo much money for the carriage of a caſk of porter. She told them, it was intended as a preſent, that it was excellent brown ſtout, and praiſed it ſo much, that one of theſe gentlemen ſaid, he ſhould like very much to taſte ſuch porter.

Mr. Garrow, for the defendant, among other things contended this action would not lie, becauſe the defendant had publiſhed a notice, which every perſon who came there might have an opportunity of ſeeing, ſtating, among other things, that they would not carry *any liquids*, unleſs at the ſame time that the carriage was paid they were inſured. In this caſe no inſurance had been made, and, therefore, he ſubmitted, this action would not lie. It was incumbent on the plaintiff to do two things—to pay the price of the carriage, which he had done: but beſides that, he muſt make an inſurance, which he had not done.

Lord Ellenborough,—" The defendant, by his ſervants, treated with the perſon who brought the porter, and he is bound by their acts. One pound fifteen ſhillings was a large ſum to pay for a caſk of porter, and I do not know, that inſurance was not included in that ſum. They did not tell the perſon that brought them this porter, that there muſt be an inſurance; and if I were to hold that this inſurance was neceſſary, unleſs they had given their actual notice of it, there would be no ſecurity in trade. People who went to theſe places with their goods muſt be lawyers. It was enough, that ſhe paid all they demanded. The queſtion for the jury to decide was, whether, ſhe tendering herſelf to pay all that was demandable, and they aſking her 1l. 15s.

that ſum did not include the inſurance as well as the price of the carriage?"

Verdict for plaintiff, 5l. 2s. 2d. comprehending the price of the porter, of the caſk, of the carriage, and of the booking.

Lord Ellenborough.—" I cannot help ſuſpecting, that what the lady ſaid in praiſe of her porter at the defendant's office, led to its finding its way out of the caſk. In conſequence of this frittering away the common law obligation of common carriers, by introducing ſo many ſpecial contracts, it will be high time for the legiſlature to interfere, and reſtore the common law obligation. Nobody now can ſend things ſafely. Wherever any alteration has been made by the carrier of his common law obligation, I ſhall require actual notice. The common law on this ſubject having exiſted for ſo many hundred years, was not without a reaſon.".

[By the common law, carriers are inſurers againſt every loſs of property entruſted to their care, except loſſes ariſing from the act of God, or the king's enemies.]

The Epiſtle from the Yearly Meeting, held in London, by Adjournments, from the 18th to the 26th of the Fifth Month, 1803, inclusive:

To the QUARTERLY and MONTHLY MEETINGS of FRIENDS, in Great Britain, Ireland, and elſewhere.

Dear Friends,

IT hath ſeemed good to this meeting to ſend you a freſh memorial of its love, and of its continuing travail that you may be more and more purified from every defilement of fleſh and ſpirit: that thus you may ſhow forth in your lives the efficacy of the grace of our bleſſed Redeemer; and at the ſolemn final cloſe, and in the day of righteous deciſion, be of the number whom he will own in the preſence of his Almighty Father. Ah! Friends, is not this the mark at which all of us ought to aim? Is not this the prize without which all other acquiſitions are " leſs than nothing, and vanity?" Seek it therefore with a ſolicitude proportioned to its infinite importance; ſuffer not the things of time to have an undue ſhare of your affections; and look with faith and reliance on the Captain of our Salvation. Out of him we can do nothing: in him is life, and that life is the light of men.

Epiſtles have been received from New England, New York, Pennſylvania and New Jerſey, Maryland, Virginia, and the Carolinas; alſo an epiſtle from Ireland. The unity of religious concern, diſcoverable in theſe teſtimonials of the remembrance of our diſtant brethren is truly acceptable.

The

The amount of ſufferings brought in this year is upwards of nine thouſand five hundred and thirty pounds:* they are chiefly, as heretofore, for tithes, and other eccleſiaſtical demands; with a portion for the militia. One friend has been impriſoned on this latter account.

Though we have not for ſome years thought it neceſſary always to announce the additions to our ſociety by convincement, it may be proper now to remark, that it has not been becauſe the number of ſuch as are from time to time led ſo to join us, has been leſs. This year alſo we have an account of ſeveral: and we believe the nearer we ourſelves approach to the ſtandard of truth, the more will our conduct invite others to repair to it.

On examining the preſent ſtate of our religious ſociety, we have found ſeveral things to lament, becauſe we believe them to be the conſequence of a neglect of the holy light of which we have been ſpeaking: but no one hath engaged more of our attention, or occaſioned a deeper exerciſe of mind, than to obſerve that ſome of our members are more or leſs deficient in duly attending the opportunities for public worſhip. And though we have often, and even lately, expreſſed our concern on this account; yet the continued need of admonition, the ſucceſſion of perſons to whom our advice may reach, and the warmth we feel in contemplating the ſubject—all induce us to open it ſomewhat further for your ſerious conſideration.

That the aſſembling of ourſelves for the purpoſe of expreſſing our ſenſe of dependence on our great Creator is a duty, moſt if not all of us acknowledge, by ſtated or occaſional attendance at ſome of the times appointed for worſhip. But too many content themſelves with an attendance once in the week, on the day when buſineſs is ſuſpended; and even of that day, the greater part is devoted to relaxation. Thus, little as it is which is meant for ſacrifice, that little has coſt them nothing. And how many—how many even of thoſe who are far removed above indigence—ſeldom, if ever, leave their outward purſuits, to join with their brethren, on other days of the week! The want of a due and diligent attendance at the uſual times, is productive of many evils. It often deprives the mind of opportunities of inſtruction and conſolation; and thus leaves it more liable to be drawn aſide from the right way, by the ſpirit of the world; it leads naturally to the neglect of other religious duties; and it tends to occaſion indifference in thoſe to whom the influence reaches, by its baneful example. But the habitual neglect of religious meetings, in any of our members, as it is thus the cauſe of many evils, has alſo itſelf a cauſe. This dear friends, we ſhould ſearch

* Friends are deſired, if occaſion ſhould occur, to contradict an opinion which ſometimes prevails among the public—that the ſociety repays the ſufferers. No ſuch practice has ever exiſted.

out, if we wiſh to have the remedy applied. And to what cauſe can we aſcribe it, but to a want of hunger and thirſt for that ſpiritual refreſhment, which is yet, bleſſed be the Lord, to be known in the meetings of his humble and dependent ſervants? Now if we feel not this hunger and thirſt, is there not reaſon for us to be alarmed; and may we not juſtly fear, that we are ſpiritually ſick? And truly, notwithſtanding the excuſes of ſuch as yet acknowledge public worſhip to be eſſential, and the ſpecious ſemblances of reaſoning of ſuch as attempt to ſet aſide a conſtant obligation to it, experience has taught us, that a neglect of meetings both indicates and produces indiſpoſition of mind; and tends to lay waſte religious ſociety. Wherefore, we once more beſeech the remiſs of the preſent day, to lay thoſe things to heart, and ſtrive for amendment; and we again preſs it upon ſuch as are themſelves diligent, that they do not neglect any gentle intimation of duty, to admoniſh a brother or a ſiſter for whoſe remiſſneſs they may feel concern.

But although we are thus particular on a ſubject, which we believe concerns not us alone, but every profeſſor of the Chriſtian name; we have not been unmindful of ſeveral teſtimonies which we believe to be as yet, more peculiarly our own: to bear for the honour of the great Head of the Church, and againſt the ſpirit which leads into conformity with the world. Such is our teſtimony for the free teachings of the light of Chriſt revealed in the ſoul, and through ſuch inſtruments as he may immediately prepare, call, and qualify; in contradiſtinction to a miniſtry formed by man, and undertaken for temporal rewards. This teſtimony remains as incumbent upon us as ever, and although our accounts indicate it rather to gain ground than to decline, yet a concern has been witneſſed at this time that it may ſtill further prevail, and be borne in a diſpoſition which may ſhow to obſervers, that our motive is ſingly to promote the cauſe of Chriſt.

The deviations from our ancient ſimplicity of manners, of ſpeech, and of attire, however ſome may affect to term them ſmall things, are notwithſtanding cauſes of great grief to the faithful among us: becauſe we are perſuaded that they demonſtrate a mind averſe from the ſelf-denial which the goſpel enjoins, and lead to liberties of a hurtful tendency. In our laſt epiſtle, we cautioned ſuch as have the care of youth, againſt an indulgence in theſe reſpects that wounds their own minds, and lamentably injures the tender objects of their care. We renew the caution, and we preſs it upon friends who themſelves are clear, to be early and earneſt in adviſing parents againſt the beginnings of connivance at the vain propenſities of their children. But friends, what ſhall we ſay to ſuch as lead them, almoſt in infancy, into faſhions which they themſelves, in their own practice, appear to diſapprove?

Now

Now for you, tender youth, ariſes, before we conclude, the ſalutation of love, and the word of encouragement. We have often addreſſed you alſo with counſel and caution, becauſe we have often felt you, as we now feel, very near to us in goſpel affection; and we pray that nothing may unfit you to be preſented and united to Chriſt. Even now, in early life, if you ſeek an acquaintance with him, as outwardly revealed in the ſcriptures of truth, and inwardly in your hearts; and if you become his friends by obedience to his voice, even now you will contribute to the advancing of his cauſe of righteouſneſs; and as you follow on under the guidance of his meek and lowly ſpirit, you will be enabled more conſpicuouſly to eſpouſe his cauſe, when the faithful labourers of the preſent day ſhall have entered into reſt.

May young and old, and all the intermediate claſſes of our ſociety, be arouſed to a due ſenſe of the one important purpoſe of life. Is it not to work out their own ſalvation with fear and trembling? And why with fear, but from the natural infirmity of the creature, and the temptations which ſurround? But, friends, hold on your way. Help is laid on One that is mighty. He who died for us will not forſake thoſe that truſt in Him.

Signed in and on behalf of the meeting, by
ROBERT BARNARD,
Clerk to the meeting this year.

THE PICTURE: A TALE.

NOT many years ago, while Eneas Sylvius Piccolimini was governor of Rome, an honeſt man worn down by age and infirmities, and become incapable of following the occupation by which he had gained a ſupport for himſelf and his aged wife, found it neceſſary to ſell ſome of the few goods he was poſſeſſed of, in order to prolong exiſtence. Among other articles, there was a ſmall picture by Raphael, left him by his forefathers; but he was not capable of judging of its value, and the ſmoke and duſt which covered it, contributed to depreciate it in his eyes. In order to make ſome money by it, he applied to a painter who (like many others) was more ſkilful in dealing in pictures than in producing any from his own pencil. Soon as he had ſeen the piece he diſcovered the capital maſter it was by, and conſequently its great value; but avariciouſly inclined to take advantage of the old man's ignorance in painting, and likewiſe of his poverty, he began to laugh at it, as being a paltry dawb of no value; and offered him a few paolis, which he even pretended to give him more out of charity, than as a due compenſation for the picture. His offer was accepted, and he, exulting

ulting in his heart at his rich prize, and laughing at the poor man's ſimplicity, carried the picture away.

A few days after, it happened that an old friend called on the poor man, and not perceiving the picture which he had been uſed to ſee, aſked him what had become of it: he was anſwered, that it had been ſold; alſo informed who had been the purchaſer, and what had been the price. The honeſt friend exclaimed with indignation, on finding in what manner the good old man's ſimplicity had been betrayed; he aſſured him it was by the hand of a great maſter, and of much value; he adviſed him to preſent himſelf before the governor, and, in order to encourage him, offered to accompany him there himſelf.

The learned prelate having heard attentively the caſe, ordered them to leave him the dimenſions of the picture: and having learnt alſo the ſubject it repreſented, diſmiſſed them.

This worthy divine fortunately had in his gallery two pictures nearly of the ſame ſize as that which had been deſcribed to him; he ordered one to be taken out of its frame, and then ſent for the painter and dealer in pictures. On his arrival, the governor aſked him, whether he could procure him a picture to fit the frame he ſhewed him, and match the other picture. I have got one that will juſt ſuit your excellency, anſwered he; and it is a capital picture by Raphael: it ſeems made on purpoſe for that frame. Let me ſee it then, replied the governor; the painter went home, and ſoon returned with the picture.

It repreſented a holy family, done in the moſt maſterly ſtyle. When the ſmoke and duſt were removed, the colours appeared to perfection; the exactneſs of the contours, the ſoft complexions of the fleſh, the gracefulneſs of the drapery, the elegance of the figures, the truth of expreſſion, which characterize Raphael, all were diſcoverable to the eye of a connoiſſeur. The picture being placed in a good light, where it appeared to the beſt advantage, the prelate examined it for ſome time, and aſked its price. I have, ſays the painter, been offered two hundred ſequins by a friend yeſterday, for an Engliſh gentleman, who is eager to have it. I have refuſed the offer, as I expect two hundred and fifty; ſuch a capital performance deſerves ſuch a price. However, if the picture pleaſes your excellency, I will be contented with any thing above what has been offered me. The prelate was ſtruck with horror at the wickedneſs of the wretch; but ſtill diſſembling, he told him with an eaſy air, that he would not diſpute about the value of the picture, nor that it merited a high price; but he found it difficult to be perſuaded that he had rejected ſo great an offer. The painter proteſted in the moſt ſerious and ſolemn manner, that he had told the real truth, and that if his excellency pleaſed, he would bring his friend to confirm the fact.

You have then been offered, replied the governor, two hundred ſequins?—I have, pleaſe your excellency, and may expect more for it.—Well then, that is enough. Draw that curtain, ſaid he, to one of the attendants: the order was obeyed, and the good old man appeared, who had been ſent for, and there concealed. It may eaſily be imagined what a ſhock this was to the painter. He turned pale, was covered with confuſion, and began to tremble from head to foot. The prelate for ſome moments left him in his confuſion; then aſſuming an air of ſeverity, ſaid, thus, villain, thou takeſt a baſe advantage of the ignorance and poverty of an unfortunate old man? While thou wert betraying him in ſuch a vile manner, didſt thou not feel nature ſhudder within thee? Did not the bread which thou waſt robbing from the mouth of a decayed infirm old man, excite any remorſe in thy heart? Execrable wretch! Thou well knoweſt the puniſhment due to thy wickedneſs. It is too much clemency to condemn thee only by the ſentence thou haſt pronounced: however, let that be thy doom; but Heaven preſerve thee from another crime; for thou ſhalt pay dearly for both at once. Now the two hundred ſequins which that picture deſerves by thy own confeſſion, and which thou ſayeſt are ready, thou ſhalt give without delay to this man; and the firſt fraud I hear of thee ſhall prove thy ruin.

The convicted painter went away, terrified, confuſed, and diſmayed. The good old man, ſhedding tears of gratitude and admiration, bleſſed a thouſand times his wiſe protector and benefactor; who felt ſenſibly the double pleaſure of having ſaved an innocent man from being duped, and caught a wicked deceiver in his own ſnares.

A new METHOD *of* PROPAGATING POTATOES.

[Communicated to the Bath and Weſt of England Society, by the Rev. J. Barton.]

HAVING a piece of ground choaked up with potatoe ſtalks, from the negligence of the labourers employed in clearing it of a preceding crop, this gentleman carefully planted about 100 of them in drills, in the ſame manner as cabbage plants, firſt pulling off the potatoes that adhered to the roots. The experiment ſucceeded beyond his expectation, as each ſtalk produced from ten to fifteen, ſome of them uncommonly large.

This method of culture, particularly in wet ſoils, may probably ſucceed better than the common practice; as there would be no danger of their rotting, which the ſeed potatoes are apt to do: thus the markets might be ſupplied, not only with the root itſelf, but alſo with the ſtems, which could be ſold in the ſame market as cabbage plants.

The WORKS *of an* ENGLISH MINISTER.

ON four windows in ſucceſſion, on the ground floor, in a corner houſe in G———-ſquare, being ſtopped up to avoid the window-tax, in 1784, ſome one chalked on the bricks, where the windows had been, " Pitt's Works, volume 1, volume 2, volume 3, volume 4."

AN ANECDOTE.

THOUGH the celebrated letters of Lord Cheſterfield to his ſon are rather more calculated to eſtabliſh the brilliancy of his head than to prove the purity of his heart, yet ſtill he was not deſtitute of thoſe philanthropic emotions which evince a humane and benevolent mind. Having been accidentally informed that the widow of his game-keeper was reduced to a ſtate of the utmoſt indigence, he ſent her a hare, within ſide of which was a purſe containing the ſum of fifty pounds, accompanied by the following note:

" Lord Cheſterfield is extremely ſorry to hear of Mrs. Dawſon's embarraſſments, and requeſts her acceptance of a hare; but, as he conceives the reliſh of that ſpecies of game depends much upon the ſtuffing, has, in this inſtance, taken upon himſelf the office of cook."

ACCOUNT *of the* FOOD *of the* REIN-DEER.

[From Aſcerbi's Travels through Sweden, &c.]

THE country around offered a ſcene very uncommon, and to us quite new. The moſs on which the rein-deer feeds covers the whole ground, which is flat, and only ſkirted by hills at ſome diſtance; but theſe hills are alſo clothed with this moſs. The colour of the moſs is a pale yellow, which, when dry, changes to white: the regularity of its ſhape, and the uniform manner in which the ſurface of the ground is decked with it, appears very ſingular and ſtriking: it has the ſemblance of a beautiful carpet. Theſe plants grow in a ſhape nearly octagonal, and approaching to a circle; and as they cloſely join each other, they form a kind of Moſaic work or embroidery. The white appearance of the country, which thence ariſes, may for a moment make you imagine that the ground is covered with ſnow; but the idea of a winter ſcene is done away by the view of little thickets in full green, which you perceive ſcattered here and there, and ſtill more by the preſence of the ſun, and the warmth of his rays. As this moſs is very dry, nothing can poſſibly be more pleaſant to walk upon, nor can there be any thing ſofter to

ſerve as a bed. Its cleanneſs and whiteneſs is tempting to the ſight, and when we had put up our tent, we found ourſelves comfortably lodged. I had many times before met with this moſs, but in no place had I found it ſo rich. It was the only produce here, which nature ſeemed to favour and ſupport; no other herb was growing near it, nor any other vegetable on the ſpot, except a few birch trees, with their underwood, and ſome firs, diſperſed on the hill by the river ſide. All theſe ſeemed to vegetate with difficulty, as if deprived of their nouriſhment by the moſs, and appeared withering and ſtunted. Some trees, indeed, which grew very near the water had the appearance of being in a flouriſhing ſtate, perhaps owing to the moiſture they derived from the river: but, in ſhort, this moſs appeared to be the royal plant, which ruled abſolute over the vegetable kingdom of the country, and diſtributed its bounty and influence among a particular race of men and animals.

Singular Circumſtances relative to Hares.

WHILE Dr. Townſon was at Gottingen, he had a young hare brought to him, which he took ſo much pains with, as to render it more familiar than theſe animals commonly are. In the evenings it ſoon became ſo frolicſome, as to run and jump about his ſofa and bed; ſometimes in its play it would leap upon, and pat him with its fore feet, or, while he was reading, even knock the book out of his hand. But whenever a ſtranger entered the room, the little animal always exhibited conſiderable alarm.

Mr. Borlaſe ſaw a hare that was ſo familiar as to feed from the hand, lay under a chair in a common ſitting-room, and appear, in every other reſpect, as eaſy and comfortable in its ſituation as a lap dog. It now and then went out into the garden, but after regaling itſelf always returned to the houſe as its proper habitation. Its uſual companions were a greyhound and a ſpaniel, both ſo fond of hare hunting, they they often went out together without any perſon accompanying them. With theſe two dogs this tame hare ſpent its evenings: they always ſlept on the ſame hearth, and very frequently it would reſt itſelf upon them.

REFLECTION.

THE beſt antidote for the troubles incident to a ſtate of imperfection, is a firm conviction of the truth that God lives.

Anſwer, by W. Bickham, Jun. of Aſhburton, to his own Charade, inſerted April 11.

A READING-GLASS is uſeful found,
Where arts and ſciences abound.

Anſwer, by R. Holwell, of Exeter, to P. Gove's Enigma, inſerted May 23.

IT ſeems to me that nothing ſaid or thought
To anſwer all your lines can e'er be brought;
The only ſubject I can think or gueſs,
The real anſwer is the letter *S*.

*** We have received the like anſwer from A. Kyne, jun. of Dartmouth; J. O. Zillwood, of Dorcheſter; J. Tremlett, of Newton Abbot; J. Squance, H. Humphreys, T. Whicker, and Orlando, of Exeter; P. Ninnis, of St. Auſtell; J. Whittle, of Upway; W. Bickham, jun. of Aſhburton; J. Beckerleg, of Paul; Nebuchadnezzar; R. of Pentreath; J. W. of Lyme Regis; and E. R. Bickham, of Newton Buſhel.

Anſwer, by R. Horſey, of Wellington, to R. Berry's Charade, inſerted May 30.

WHEN mud and dirt o'erſpread the ground
What would the ladies do,
If ne'er a PATTEN could be found
To ſlip upon their ſhoe?

‡*‡ We have received the like anſwer from William Row, of Wellington; J. B. Bloomfield, of Poole; P. Gove, of Exeter; J. Channon, of Otterу; W. Gifford, of South Petherton; T. Coumbe, of St. German's; Paul Ninnis, of St. Auſtell; John Tremlet, and S. L. Margary, of Newton Abbot; W. Pollard, of Egloſhayne; T. Rutger, of Clowance; R. Maſſett, of Saltaſh; Nebuchadnezzar; E. R. Bickham, of Newton Buſhell; J. Chubb, of Everſhot; Thomas Pethebridge, J. Lee, and B. Hayman, of Buckfaſtleigh; J. Berkeleg, of Paul; J. O. Zillwood, of Dorcheſter; and A. Hyner, jun. of Dartmouth.

A REBUS, *by T. Bullock, of St. Columb.*

WHAT often aids the human ſight;
And what precedes the ſilent night;
A little inſect is my third;
My laſt a black voracious bird:
Collect the points, and then you'll ſee
What's oft produc'd thro' ſympathy.

A REBUS, *by J. Lewis, of Poole.*

YE ſtudious wits, reveal a bird,
That in the night doth fly;
And then detect a ſtubborn thing,
That's penn'd up in a ſty;

And now you will a fruit unfold,
A fruit that's known full well;
And laſt of all a beaſt declare,
Which none can it excel:

Theſe four initials well expound,
In palaces it may be found.

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

The POOR COTTAGERS: *A* FRAGMENT.

——————IN yonder vale,
Half hid with trees, an humble cottage ſtood,
Where erſt, my parents, bleſt with kind content,
In peace ſerenely dwelt; around their roof
A ſimple garden ſpread its fragrant bounds,
Where the pure ſtreamlet bent its mazy courſe,
Soft murmuring to the breeze; in this retreat
(A ſtranger then to ſorrow's cheerleſs gloom)
My careleſs childhood fled; too like, alas!
The tranſient ſunſhine of a winter's morn;
For ſcarce had eighteen years paſs'd o'er my head,
When, ſick of ſolitude, I madly left
My native cot to ſhine in hoſtile arms.
Ah luckleſs day! when firſt from England borne,
I ſigh'd adieu! to pleaſures ever loſt;
As her white cliffs ſcarce met my tearful eye,
This heavy heart beat high againſt my breaſt,
O'erwhelm'd with miſery. Full many a year
In foreign lands, where ſavage ſlaughter reign'd,
I ſerv'd my country with a Briton's zeal;
Proud of the honour'd taſk! Yet oft I thought
E'en midſt the crimſon battle's angry rage,
Of my poor parents, and my friends belov'd,
And fondly hop'd, on ſome more favour'd day,
To ſpend, with them, my lateſt hours in peace.
Ah dread deluſion! On this fatal morn,
Elate with joy, I ſought theſe native ſcenes,
Anxious to claſp the guardians of my youth,
In warm affection's arms; but, ſad to tell,
Where once the cottage ſtood, a mould'ring wall,
Thick clad with ivy, ſerves alone to ſhew,
That *there* my parents *liv'd*. The garden fence
Now lies in ruins; and where once the roſe,
And virgin lily, deck'd each gaudy bed
With beauteous tints, now thorns and poiſ'nous weeds
Choak the neglected ground. Long I beheld,
In meditation loſt, the direful change,
'Till ſome old villager that, whiſtling, drove
An herd of cattle to the neighbouring ſpring,
Arous'd me from my trance. With fault'ring voice,
Of this bewilder'd ſpot I queſtion'd him,
When thus the ſwain reply'd:

" Some years ago,
" Two poor old cottagers, bent down with age,
" Theſe ruin'd walls poſſeſs'd. I knew them well;
" For they have often told me pleaſant tales,
" And gave me flow'rs to dreſs my garland with
" At Midſummer. They had one only ſon;
" And him they lov'd ſo well, ſo doated on,
" That oft I envy'd him his happineſs.
" But he (ſad wretch!), forgetful of the debt

" To

" To his poor parents due), when he was grown
" A ſtout and hardy lad, forſook their cot,
" And journey'd to the wars. O'ercome with grief,
" I mark'd their ſwift decline, and fain would ſooth,
" With tears of ſympathy, their piteous caſe;
" But like ſome aged oak, that frail with years,
" Falls the firſt victims of the wintry blaſt,
" They ſunk beneath their load of care, and died.
" Well I remember how the villagers
" Wept o'er their humble grave. The blooming girls
" Still ſtrew with flow'rs the ſpot where they repoſe,
" And often tell the cottagers' ſad tale,
" And call for vengeance on their cruel ſon."

Plymouth-Dock PALEMON.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

Lines written on the Death of a young Gentleman who was unfortunately drowned.

AS o'er thy fate ſad friendſhip pours the lay,
And weeps in anguiſh o'er thy youthful tomb:
Religion only can a charm diſplay,
Or ſtrike the note of ſullen ſorrow dumb.

Fair as the opening roſe, or bluſhing dawn,
That gilds the morning of a ſmiling day;
Gay as the bounding ſtag acroſs the lawn,
With health, and youth, and wealth, in brighteſt ray.

Yet why or wherefore round thy youthful bier
Should ſorrow pine, and melancholy gloom?
Why fly, in copious ſtreams, the pitying tear
At thy untimely fate, and hapleſs doom?

'Tis nature calls it from the feeling mind;
'Tis heavenly pity weeps when merit dies;
Weeps when the ſoul eternal bliſs ſhall find,
And endleſs glory crowns him in the ſkies;

Yet who for worth or merit can forbear,
When ſnatch'd untimely from our arms away?
Reſtrain the grateful tribute of a tear,
When nature calls the pitying tear to pay?

The SETTING SUN.

WHEN roſy eve revives the fragrant hours,
And heavenly dews refreſh the cloſing flowers,
And birds, with melting muſic, drop to reſt,
The ſun, how radiant! in the purple weſt;
O'er Devon's waving hills and dales I ſtray,
To catch the luſtre of his parting ray:
Now, o'er the vale in ſhade, I bruſh the dew,
Now, on the hill, again his orb I view:
As I deſcend, or riſe, I loſe or gain
The viſion, till he ſinks beyond the main,
Relumes, on weſtern iſles, the morning light,
And yields this nether realm to ſtarry night.
Is life not varied thus with lights and ſhades,
Till in the night of death the proſpect fades?